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Director of  
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EL SALVADOR: High-Level Maneuvering

Recent moves by Defense Minister Garcia are causing additional friction in the military, but extreme rightist assembly leader D'Aubuisson's promise to resign soon could ease the situation. (C)

[REDACTED]

D'Aubuisson's announcement came after moderate deputies demanded he clarify his recent threat to "withdraw" from the Assembly. His resignation is contingent upon completion of the new constitution, projected for late March or early April. (S)

Comment: Garcia's critics hope the military commission recently appointed by President Magana will recommend that the Defense Minister step down. Although they see Garcia's transfer orders as a provocation, they apparently want to avoid more damage to the military.

[REDACTED]

D'Aubuisson's resignation should make it easier for Garcia to give up his post. The Defense Minister holds D'Aubuisson responsible for Colonel Ochoa's rebellion in January. Ochoa's departure for assignment abroad also should reduce military tensions. (S)

The reported presence of D'Aubuisson loyalists at Ochoa's farewell party, however, undercuts his claim that he is apolitical. (S NF [REDACTED])

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